

[a control mechanism coupled to said heat exchanger for enabling adjustable control of therapy temperature.--

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--⁹. The therapy apparatus of claim ¹~~8~~, wherein said heat exchanger comprises means for delivering a predetermined volume of fluid from said thermal reservoir into said recirculating fluid loop.--

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--¹⁰. The therapy apparatus of claim ¹~~8~~, wherein said therapy pad includes a flexible surface and wherein said control mechanism is coupled to said pump for enabling adjustable control of fluid pressure in said therapy pad.--

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--¹¹. The therapy apparatus of claim ³~~10~~, wherein said control mechanism is adapted to vary pressure of recirculating fluid within said therapy pad in a manner to apply tactile stimulation to a therapy site by increasing and decreasing fluid pressure in said therapy pad.--

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--¹². The therapy apparatus of claim ¹~~8~~, wherein said control mechanism comprises an alarm adapted to actuate whenever said thermal reservoir lacks thermal capacity to maintain a predetermined therapy temperature.--

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--¹³. The therapy apparatus of claim ¹~~8~~, wherein said recirculating fluid loop comprises a first temperature sensor for monitoring therapy temperature.--

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--~~14~~. The therapy apparatus of claim ~~13~~⁶, wherein said control mechanism comprises control electronics for said heat exchanger, said control electronics being coupled to said first temperature sensor, user-operated controls and a display for manual selection and visual confirmation of therapy temperature, said control electronics comprising an associated operating program and means for programming, storing and retrieving a therapy temperature-time profile for implementing therapy temperature control.--

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--~~15~~. The apparatus of claim ~~14~~⁷, wherein said control electronics further comprises means for determining a time-varying therapy temperature specified in said therapy temperature-time profile in real time for implementing therapy temperature control.--

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--~~16~~. The apparatus of claim ~~15~~⁸, wherein said control electronics further comprises means for comparing time-varying therapy temperature applied at said therapy site to a temperature specified in said therapy temperature-time profile in real time for implementing closed-loop therapy temperature control.--

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--~~17~~. The therapy apparatus of claim ~~16~~⁹, wherein said control electronics further comprises an alarm for warning a user when said thermal reservoir lacks thermal capacity to maintain therapy temperature.--